

2016 ANNUAL REPORT



Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Adam H. Putnam, Commissioner



Dear Governor Scott, Senate President Negron and Speaker Corcoran:

It is an honor to serve as Florida's Commissioner of Agriculture, and I appreciate the opportunity to highlight some of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' key achievements in 2016.

We continued to support Florida's \$120 billion agriculture industry, which benefits residents throughout our state and nation and exports to approximately 175 countries and territories worldwide. We have also honored our veterans, protected our consumers and enhanced the services we provide to Floridians to help make Florida the best state in the country.

Florida is one of the most veteran-friendly states in the nation, and we provide as much support as we can to the men and women who serve and have served our country. In the wake of the 2015 terrorist attack that claimed the lives of five service members in Chattanooga, Tennessee, I announced that we would expedite concealed weapon license applications for all active military members and veterans. Since that time, we have expedited more than 73,000 licenses for these eligible individuals.

Additionally, we have continued to honor our wounded veterans through the "Operation Outdoor Freedom" program administered by the Florida Forest Service. Since the program was launched in 2011, more than 2,700 wounded veterans have participated in more than 350 hunting, fishing and boating events at no cost.

We've remained vigilant in our efforts to protect consumers. To combat gas pump "skimmers," we worked with the Florida Legislature to strengthen laws to better protect consumers from financial loss. A skimmer is a device that steals credit or debit card information when consumers swipe their card at the pump to pay for gas. The new laws that went into effect in October added another layer of security and increased penalties to crack-down on unscrupulous individuals that prey on consumers.

Florida is a hotbed for invasive pests and disease due to its tropical climate and numerous ports. In 2016, we faced multiple threats to our residents and agriculture industry, such as: the Oriental Fruit Fly, the New World Screwworm and the giant African land snail. Through aggressive response efforts, we successfully eradicated the Oriental Fruit Fly, which can devastate agriculture as it attacks more than 430 different commodities. We also eradicated the New World screwworm in Monroe County, protecting the Key deer population. We have eliminated more than 166,000 giant African land snails from nearly 700 properties in South Florida since the pest was detected in 2011.

One of our top priorities remains ensuring that Florida children have access to the nutrition they need to succeed in the classroom. Through our Summer BreakSpot program, in 2016, we served more than 16 million healthy meals to low-income children to help bridge the nutritional gap during the summer months. Since assuming responsibility of school nutrition programs in 2011, our goal has been to increase the amount of healthy choices offered to Florida children. The number of schools awarded HealthierUS School Challenge designation, a voluntary certification initiative that recognizes schools' efforts to improve food and physical activity choices, has increased from 27 in 2012 to 280.

While I'm proud of all that we've accomplished, I'm eager to build on these successes. Thank you for your partnership in serving our fellow Floridians.

Sincerely,

Adam H. Putnam
Commissioner of Agriculture

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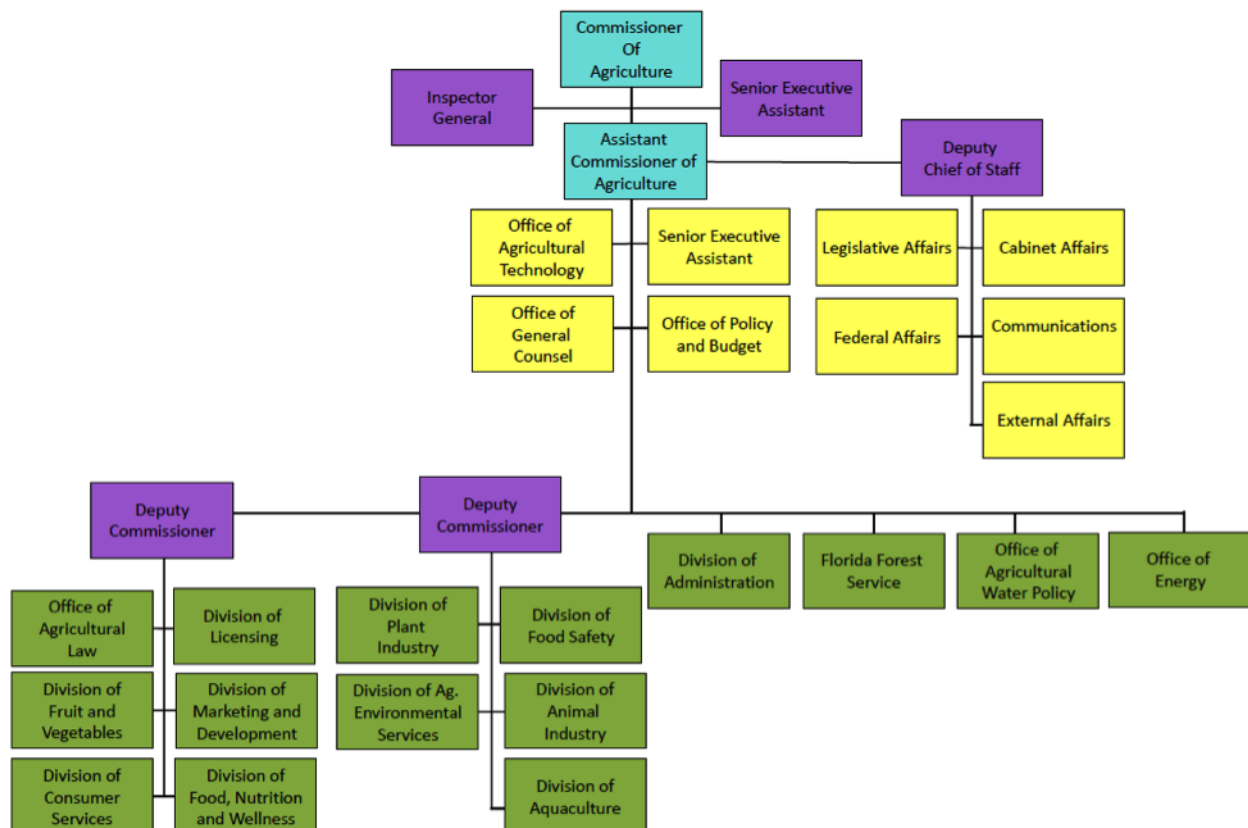
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DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

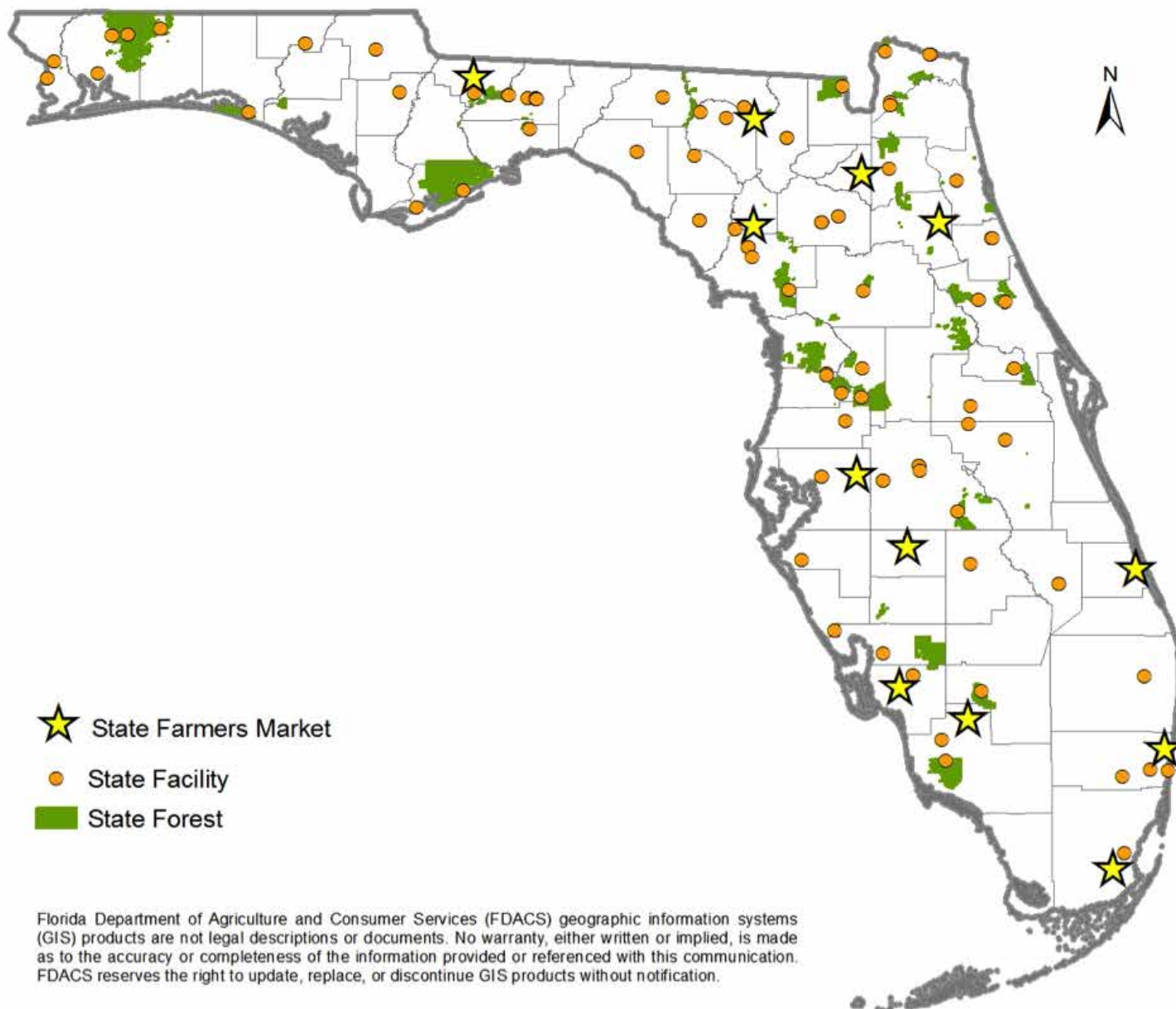
Department Organization

The department is guided by the leadership of the Commissioner of Agriculture, a statewide elected position and one of three members of Florida's Cabinet. The department consists of 12 divisions and three offices that report to the Assistant Commissioner/Chief of Staff and/or one of two Deputy Commissioners. Made up of nearly 4,000 staff positions, the department has a presence throughout the state and is headquartered in the state Capitol building in Tallahassee.

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Organizational Chart



DEPARTMENT PRESENCE



ACCOMPLISHMENTS BY DIVISION

The department's wide range of statutorily required responsibilities is achieved by various divisions and offices. Though each division serves a different purpose and a different audience, collectively, this department touches the lives of every Floridian.

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION

The Division of Administration manages the department's internal functions, ranging from personnel management, employee training and fiscal operations to facilities management and purchasing. During the 2016 calendar year, the Division of Administration:

- Led the successful procurement and subsequent contract for the lease and management of Babcock Ranch Preserve (73,570 acres). Administration, Florida Forest Service and the Office of the General Counsel worked over the past year with staff in the drafting and issuance of the solicitation document, management of the procurement process and negotiation of the final contract, which was effective November 1, 2016.
- Revised and re-established supervisory training to better meet the needs of the department's supervisors. The new format, Constructing Leaders, is a two-phase supervisory training consisting of an online and live component. The online training, Foundations, focuses on need-to-know statute and policy information while the live training, Constructing Leaders, utilizes subject matter experts to highlight leadership, communication and management principles.
- Hosted the 2016 Legacy Leadership Continuing Education class for the 2014 and 2015 Cohorts. The continuing education class allowed the opportunity for the two cohorts to work collaboratively and institute leadership skills to create lasting impacts on the department.
- Moved the department's Annual Required Training to Ag Academy, the department's Learning Management System. Annual Required Training for 2016 included modules on safety and worker's compensation, sexual harassment, ethics, and public records and security awareness. The department has an outstanding reputation of professionalism and has earned the trust of our citizens and the entities we regulate. Annual Required Training helps our employees build upon this great reputation by ensuring our actions are consistent with department policies and procedures.
- Improved recruitment initiative efforts for increasing awareness of the diverse career opportunities within the department. Participated in career fairs at state universities to educate about the diverse career opportunities within the department. These career fairs allowed the department to broaden the reach of the Fresh From Florida Careers message and provided opportunities to target potential graduates through college publications and websites.
- Used recruitment initiatives to attract veterans through a resource portal located on the Florida Department of Veteran Affairs' website that leads to the department's Fresh From Florida Careers website/job board.
- Successfully participated in the department's Fostering Success Program (Guardian Ad Litem) and employed eight youth in the program. Participants of the program were placed in entry-level OPS positions, where they were provided a positive working environment coupled with on-the-job training. We will continue growing this program by identifying new positions.

The department has an outstanding reputation of professionalism and has earned the trust of its citizens and the entities we regulate.

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURAL ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

The Division of Agricultural Environmental Services works with the agriculture industry to properly register pesticides for use in accordance with federal and state requirements, regulates pest control services, works with local governments to effectively support mosquito control programs and certifies the safety and effectiveness of feed, seed and fertilizer products. During the 2016 calendar year, the Division of Agricultural Environmental Services:

- Supported the response to Zika cases in the state by: monitoring mosquito control activities and notifying local mosquito control programs of arboviral activity or events; providing technical assistance to mosquito control programs and the Florida Department of Health; and identifying resources to conduct incident-related mosquito control efforts.
- Provided training and conducted outreach at over 60 workshops, symposia and meetings to communicate to stakeholder groups what new federal Worker Protection Standard regulation entails and how to maintain compliance.
- Assisted Florida's agriculture industry by reviewing and registering critically needed pesticide products for disease and vector control in citrus, approving special local need labels for control of the Oriental Fruit Fly and collaborating with national associations and other states to evaluate, develop and validate methodology using the best science available for feed, seed, fertilizer and pesticide analysis.
- Successfully completed the Year 1 requirements for the Animal Feed Regulatory Program Standards (AFRPS) Grant provided by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA). This grant allows for enhanced feed surveillance capabilities and enables the laboratory to work toward obtaining ISO 17025 accreditation. The division has begun to collect and analyze both surveillance and investigative samples. Results from this testing are entered into FDA's Electronic Laboratory Exchange Network (eLEXNET), a centralized database that public health professionals at the local, state and federal levels can use to collaborate, share and analyze food and feed testing laboratory results.
- Conducted over 10,000 pest control, feed, seed, fertilizer, pesticide and mosquito control inspections and investigations in order to protect Florida residents and the integrity of the regulated industries.
- Conducted Operation Cleansweep, which provided an opportunity for growers, pest control companies, nurseries and golf courses to dispose of cancelled, suspended or unusable pesticides. This year, over 54,000 pounds of hazardous material were collected.
- Continued a licensing improvement initiative with the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) to expand the online pesticide exam process. Web-based exams now include all Pest Control examination categories under Chapter 482, Florida Statutes (F.S.) in addition to existing Agricultural Pesticide Applicator exam categories under Chapter 487, F.S. Additionally, the availability of online processes, including new and renewal applications for Pest Control licensing under Chapter 482, F.S., was expanded.
- Launched the new Aerial Registration and Transaction Reporting website (Aerial.FreshFromFlorida.com/). All users may now register new aircraft, renew existing registrations and report aircraft transactions using the Department's website rather than submitting requests via mail.
- Educated property owners, pest control companies and local governments on the identification and effective control of invasive termites, including the Conehead termite and the Formosan termite.



OFFICE OF AGRICULTURAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement provides investigative and law enforcement support of the department's regulatory programs. During the 2016 calendar year, the Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement:

- Conducted more than 11.4 million inspections of commercial vehicles and containers entering and exiting the state through 23 agricultural interdiction stations; identified approximately 4,112 plant, food and animal violations; made 264 arrests; issued 728 Uniform Traffic Citations and 6,962 Written Warnings; and seized and/or recovered \$102,961 in narcotics and stolen property. The state of Florida collected more than \$13.7 million in tax revenues as a direct result of inspection efforts.



- Initiated 705 criminal investigations, resulting in 514 criminal charges issued (460 felony and 54 misdemeanor) and 163 arrests. Total combined financial recoveries were \$52,033.
- Initiated 6,948 regulatory investigations and 8,178 on-site compliance inspections, resulting in 651 violations identified. Issued 1,507 Warning/ Compliance Letters and 19 Cease and Desist Orders.
- Partnered with 25 local law enforcement agencies in administering the Florida Domestic Marijuana Eradication Program. Partners reported the destruction of over 15,500 marijuana plants from more than 180 grow sites, 167 arrests, seizure of 64 firearms and more than \$770,000 in asset forfeitures. The department also provided investigations training to 73 local, state and federal law enforcement officers from Florida and Louisiana and provided approximately \$217,000 in direct disbursements to Florida local law enforcement agencies to help offset their investigative costs.



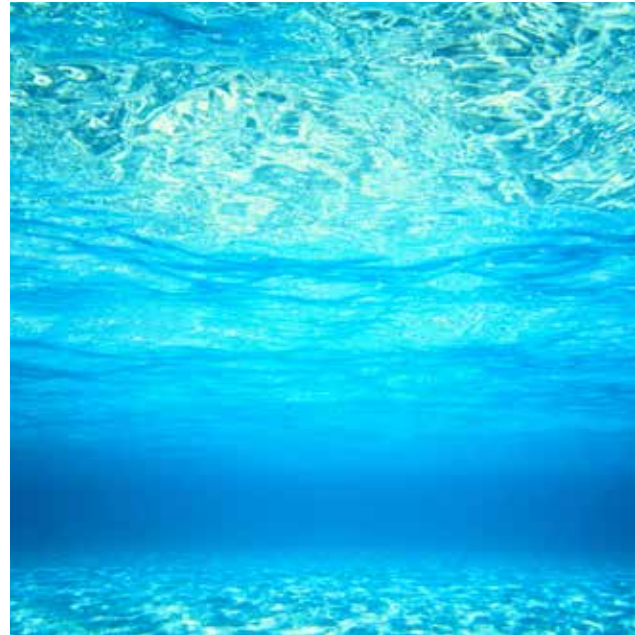
- Established the Intelligence and Analysis Section in an effort to capitalize on the availability of investigative resources and engage more actively in the sharing of information and intelligence with local, state and federal partners within the law enforcement and domestic security community. IAS provides operational and tactical intelligence support to the Bureau of Investigative Services and Uniform Services.
- Earned reaccreditation from the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation on June 22, 2016. The accreditation program ensures that law enforcement agencies maintain the highest standards of professionalism. OALE was first accredited in 2007.

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OFFICE OF AGRICULTURAL WATER POLICY

The Office of Agricultural Water Policy provides leadership and facilitates communication among federal, state and local agencies and the agriculture industry on issues related to water quantity and quality. During the 2016 calendar year, the Office of Agricultural Water Policy:

- Continued to emphasize the implementation of best management practices (BMP) for Florida agriculture with passage of a comprehensive water policy bill during the 2016 legislative session. This legislation gave the OAWP new responsibilities, particularly in BMP implementation verification. To address these new responsibilities, the OAWP added staff and reorganized to better serve Florida agriculture and implement the legislation. As required by statute, OAWP initiated rulemaking before year-end to establish a process for verifying implementation of best management practices.
- Added more than 528,515 acres of citrus, sod, vegetable/agronomic crop, container nursery, fruit/nut, equine, dairy, poultry and cattle land in the department's agricultural BMP program, expanding the total statewide enrollment to approximately 4.98 million acres. Approximately 174,000 of the newly enrolled acres were within the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program (NEEPP) area and approximately 187,000 acres within the springs protection area. To date, there are nearly 10,000 operations on more than 40,000 parcels of land enrolled.
- Completed implementation assurance site visits for over 900 enrolled operations. The OAWP's implementation assurance efforts allow staff to follow-up with producers after enrollment in the BMP program to assist with full implementation of the BMPs.



- Helped producers identify opportunities to improve irrigation system efficiency and irrigation scheduling, saving up to 1.2 billion gallons of water in 2016. The OAWP funds Mobile Irrigation Labs (MILs) services throughout the state, which conduct on-site evaluations of irrigation systems and give producers recommendations for changes in equipment and operating strategies to save water.
- Distributed funds to assist producers in priority watersheds statewide to assist installation of structural and non-structural BMPs to protect water quality and reduce water use. These practices included: water control structures to manage and store stormwater, upgrades to more efficient irrigation systems, equipment, tools to target fertilizer applications and schedule irrigation more efficiently, alternative frost/freeze protection methods, on-farm weather stations and wetland buffers.
- Worked closely with the water management districts, agricultural associations, the University of Florida, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and other interested stakeholders to develop projected water supply needs for agriculture. The OAWP has developed a central data repository for agricultural water use projections, called the Florida Statewide Agricultural Irrigation Demand (FSAID) Geodatabase. The FSAID database includes estimates of 2015 irrigated agricultural acreage by crop type or category spatially for each county in Florida, with future projections of irrigated agricultural acreage to 2040 for both an average year and a 1-in-10 year drought.

helped
producers
save...

1.2
Billion
Gallons
of
water

DIVISION OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY

The Division of Animal Industry protects the state from animal pests and diseases, which could have major economic and public health consequences. It also ensures that all federal and state animal health codes are followed. During the 2016 calendar year, the Division of Animal Industry:

- Continued to lead Emergency Support Function (ESF) 17 at the State Emergency Operations Center in Tallahassee. ESF 17 mission areas include domestic animal, wildlife and pet issues, pre-harvest agricultural issues, and vector control issues. The State Agricultural Response Team, along with more than 25 participating agencies, supports ESF17 by acting as a multiagency coordination group, sharing information and providing guidance and resources. Emergency management activities were very active in 2016, including: An Equine Herpes Virus 1 outbreak in a large race horse training facility in south Florida, a Zika virus outbreak in South Florida, Hurricane Hermine, Hurricane Matthew and a New World Screwworm outbreak in the Florida Keys.



- Responded to reports of 185 suspected dangerous, transmissible animal diseases in Florida. These notifications resulted in 28 foreign and emerging animal disease investigations. The division continues to monitor for the presence of animal diseases to mitigate their spread. The World Screwworm infestation located in the Lower Florida Keys was eradicated. The infestation was confirmed by USDA on October 3, 2016, in Big Pine Key, Fla. after increased incidence of myiasis in the endangered Key Deer population. A federal and state response effort was immediately activated. New World Screwworms are fly larvae (maggots) that feed on living tissue and can infest livestock and other warm-blooded animals, including people. This is the first time in 30 years that there has been an infestation

in the United States and more than 50 years since screwworm has been in Florida. More than 188 million Sterile Insects were released in 34 different locations and more than 17,000 animals assessed negative for New World Screwworm through the Agricultural Interdiction Station at Mile Marker 106.

- Continued implementation of the Florida Cattle Identification rule, 5C-31, F.A.C. Outreach and education by the division increased industry understanding and compliance. Florida worked with other state animal health officials to facilitate electronic data integration and uniform data management to improve the state's ability to trace diseased animals, prevent disease spread in an animal disease emergency and to protect the marketability of Florida cattle.
- Participated in multiple state and federal animal disease monitoring programs, including: Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM), Equine Piroplasmiasis (EP), Vesicular Stomatitis (VS) and Equine Herpes Virus (EHV-1). The division directly supervised the testing of more than 458 internationally imported horses for Contagious Equine Metritis, issued import permits for 78 horses from EP endemic areas and issued 22 VS entry permits after verifying testing and other entry requirements. In addition, four separate outbreaks of EHV-1 were effectively controlled. CEM is considered a foreign animal disease and all horses originating from endemic countries must test negative for the disease before being allowed permanent entry into the United States. EP is a bloodborne foreign animal disease, and VS is a disease with similar clinical signs to Foot and Mouth disease and causes significant economic production loss to the livestock industry. EHV-1 can cause severe neurological disease in horses, resulting in death for up to 50 percent of positive cases and is spread like the common cold.
- Enhanced the state portion of the National Veterinary Accreditation Program by switching to an online version that is user-friendly and more accessible; processed over 350 accreditation exams; and streamlined the Marks and Brands application process by making enhancements to the program that dramatically reduced processing time for each brand. Provided interagency cooperation by working with CDC, CBP, USDA and OALE on a variety of issues, including illegal international importation and falsified health certificates.

- Continued to perform enhanced avian influenza surveillance statewide and tested over 20,000 samples for avian influenza. This included commercial poultry, backyard flocks, fairs/exhibitions, live bird markets and high-risk premises, such as animal sale markets and regular sick bird investigations. Increased outreach education efforts, focusing on biosecurity and how to report sick birds to prevent the spread of avian diseases.

Received several designations for the Bronson Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (BADDL) that continue to distinguish the laboratory in the animal diagnostic field.

- Received several designations for the Bronson Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (BADDL) that continue to distinguish the laboratory in the animal diagnostic field. BADDL received full accreditation from the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians, valid through 2019. An accredited laboratory is one that is capable of providing a full range of diagnostic services year-round in a majority of the following essential disciplines: necropsy, histopathology, clinical pathology, bacteriology, virology, mycology, parasitology, serology and toxicology. BADDL joined the Vet-LIRN System of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as a Level 1 Laboratory. This program coordinates facilities, equipment, and professional expertise of government and veterinary diagnostic laboratories across the country and Canada to respond to high priority chemical and microbial feed/drug contamination events. The network provides the means for rapid response to reports of animal injury and establishes protocols to facilitate veterinary diagnostic reporting to FDA. BADDL continues to be a member laboratory within National Animal Health Laboratory network (NAHLN). The NAHLN now forms part of a nationwide strategy to coordinate the work of all organizations providing animal disease surveillance and testing services.

- As part of the “One Health” mission, BADDL started mosquito arboviral testing in response to the Zika outbreak in 2016. BADDL works in conjunction with federal, state and local partners, including the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services’ Division of Agricultural and Environmental Services, the Florida Department of Health and local mosquito control programs to provide statewide surveillance for Zika. In 2016, the Bronson Laboratory has tested over 7,500 mosquitoes in 480 pools and identified eight mosquito positive pools later confirmed by CDC (Center for Disease Control and Prevention). This ongoing surveillance effort is essential to detect Zika in the Florida mosquito population.
- Invested in state-of-the-art equipment and offered new diagnostic tests at BADDL to provide enhanced customer service to the livestock and pet industry. To provide rapid release of testing results, BADDL introduced the Matrix Assisted Laser Desorption/Ionization – Time of Flight (MALDI-TOF) mass spectrometer bacterial identification system. The MALDI-TOF has a quick throughput that greatly reduces turnaround time for bacterial identification and reporting of case findings. Past biochemical methods would take three to four days for identification of isolated bacterial organisms. MALDI-TOF will allow identification within 24 hours, which will improve the efficacy, quality and turnaround time of bacterial and fungal identification and significantly lower costs. BADDL added more than 20 additional diagnostic tests, as requested by the industry, including: clinical pathology, BVD (Bovine Viral Diarrhea), Johne’s disease and water testing of Avian Influenza virus for early detection.



DIVISION OF AQUACULTURE

The Division of Aquaculture inspects the state's shellfish processing plants to ensure a quality product, inspects aquaculture facilities to protect Florida's natural resources, classifies and manages shellfish harvesting area waters to reduce the risk of shellfish-borne illness, manages the leasing of submerged state lands and restores oyster reefs to enhance productivity. During the 2016 calendar year, the Division of Aquaculture:

- Maintained compliance with the National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP), Vibrio Control Plan, by working with the shellfish industry on Rapid Cool agreements to maintain the efficacy of shellfish cooling during Vibrio Control Plan months of May through October and assisted in the development of additional on-board cooling protocols to increase cooling options. In order to evaluate the Rapid Cool critical time temperature limits, more than 780 time-temperature checks were made at certified dealer processing facilities from May through October. No temperatures above 55° F were found. In addition, dealers have introduced multiple effective handling techniques, including replacing burlap bags with nylon mesh bags and on-board icing to facilitate shellstock cooling to 55° F within one hour of harvest.
- Expanded the Shellfish Processing Plant Compliance and Inspection Program to 114 facilities (90 Shellstock Shippers and 24 Shucker Packers) and included a new Post Harvest Processing method. In addition, the division continued to coordinate with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) on updating the online Harvester Education Training Program. The workshops and online class were completed by over 2,100 harvesters and shellfish aquaculturists to meet the annual educational training requirements for certification, recertification and licensing.
- Obtained approval from the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund to establish a new Aquaculture Use Zone in Wakulla County, consisting of 16 new water column lease parcels. Seven new individual aquaculture leases were executed across Florida, including the first aquaculture lease in Gulf County. In addition, the department received approval to modify two submerged land bottom leases to full water column leases. There are now 100 water column leases in Florida.
- Developed Best Management Practices related to mechanical harvesting gear and usage following the amendments to Chapter 597, Florida Statutes to allow the use of a mechanical harvesting device to harvest shellfish from sovereign submerged land aquaculture leases. Upon approval by the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund, a special lease condition will authorize use.
- Issued 1,040 Aquaculture Certificates of Registration for fiscal year 2015-2016, of which 133 were new facilities. Of the 1,040 certificates, 329 were issued to submerged land shellfish operations and 711 were issued to upland aquaculture facilities. In 2016, 1,285 on-site Aquaculture Best Management Practice compliance verification visits were completed.
- Implemented funding from the Natural Resource Disaster Assistance (NRDA) Program to plant more than 20,000 cubic yards of oyster cultch material on 88 acres of existing oyster reefs in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties. More than 17,000 cubic yards of cultch material were planted on 84 acres of existing oyster reef habitat in West Bay, East Bay and North Bay for the Bay County NRDA project. Franklin County oystermen were contracted to plant approximately 6,600 cubic yards of cultch material on approximately 24 acres of oyster bars on Apalachicola Bay.



DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES

The Division of Consumer Services is the state's clearinghouse for consumer complaints, information and protection. It also regulates various business industries, including motor vehicle repair shops, charitable organizations, Florida's Do Not Call program, sellers of travel, intrastate movers, telemarketing, fair rides, liquid petroleum gas distributors and weighing and measuring devices. During the 2016 calendar year, the Division of Consumer Services:

- Registered or licensed more than 100,000 businesses
- Partnered with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to distribute and place "See Something, Say Something" stickers on gas pumps throughout the state. The "See Something, Say Something" campaign encourages individuals to contact authorities to report suspicious activity.



- During legislative session, Commissioner Putnam worked with Senator Anitere Flores and Representative Dana Young to better protect consumers from identity theft at gas pumps. The new law adds another layer of security on pumps to prevent skimmers and toughens penalties against the criminals responsible by: requiring self-service fuel dispensers to use certain security measures to prevent theft of consumer financial information; increasing enforcement authority against those who possess or traffic fraudulent credit cards; reclassifying the crime of unlawful conveyance of fuel, which increases the maximum sentence; and increasing the offense level of the crime, which affects sentencing guidelines.

- Worked to protect consumers from identity theft by conducting a statewide sweep, multiple smaller sweeps and daily inspections to combat illegal credit card skimmers that are being placed in gas pumps. Throughout the year the division recovered more than 200 illegal skimmers from gas pumps.
- Implemented a Veterans Fee Waiver, which waives the registration fees for honorably discharged veterans and their spouses to enter new professions or open a business that is licensed by the department so that these men and women can jumpstart their next careers.
- Received more than 37,000 complaints and returned more than \$2.8 million to consumers through administrative action and mediation between consumers and businesses. The department assessed over \$500,000 in fines against businesses violating the Do Not Call law and surpassed 1 million phone numbers on the Do Not Call List. Complaints for Do Not Call violations and Telemarketing violations decreased in 2016. This is a direct reflection of the work the department has done to drive unscrupulous telemarketers out of the state.
- Performed more than 335,000 inspection checks on retail motor fuel dispensers for accuracy and overall functionality of the devices and fuel quality sampling; more than 7,700 inspections on Liquefied Petroleum (LP) Gas for safety; and nearly 62,000 inspections of weighing and measuring devices, packages and scanners to test for accuracy. Inspected nearly 8,600 amusement rides, with more than 19,000 deficiencies corrected to ensure consumer safety. Performed more than 68,000 laboratory analyses on more than 23,000 antifreeze, brake fluid and petroleum samples. The metrology lab performed more than 8,500 volume or mass tests.
- Responded to more than 191,000 telephone calls, live chats, emails and requests for electronic and printed materials from businesses and consumers.
- Implemented the new "Student Tour Operator" designation in the "seller of travel" program area. This will provide a ready list of registered student tour operators to schools and other entities that use student tour operators. Programs include: Professional Surveyors and Mappers, Telemarketers, Health Studios, Intrastate Movers, LP Gas, Pawnbrokers, Motor Vehicle Repairs Shops and Sellers of Travel.

OFFICE OF ENERGY

The Office of Energy supports the development and analysis of state energy policies and is responsible for administering programs that increase the production of energy or yield savings. During the 2016 calendar year, the Office of Energy:

- Provided 161 energy and water audits to farmers in the Suwannee County area and invested more than \$1.2 million to implement the resulting recommendations under the Farm Energy and Water Efficiency Realization (FEWER) Program. FEWER is a pilot program in Suwannee County that provides on-site energy and water audits to farms. The pilot program provides a 75 percent cost share up to \$25,000 to area farmers who participate in the audit and choose to implement recommendations.
- Provided over \$5.8 million during fiscal year 2015-2016 under the Natural Gas Fuel Fleet Vehicle Rebate Program to Florida businesses for the conversion, purchase or lease of a natural gas fleet vehicle. This program produced an investment of \$158.3 million and created or retained 632 jobs. In addition, the use of the vehicles purchased and retrofitted under this program will save rebate recipients an estimated \$16.6 million. Year four of the program opened on July 1, 2016.
- Provided Florida K-12 public schools with 244 energy education kits designed to develop teamwork, problem-solving abilities and to investigate environmental issues. The kits included materials, such as solar panels and electric motors, that provided opportunities for hands-on science, technology, engineering and mathematics skills. An estimated 79,400 children around the state will be impacted by these kits.



Provided 161
energy and water
audits to farmers

- Joined the Florida Building Commission (FBC) on May 5, 2016, by appointment from the Governor, in accordance with Florida Statute 553.74. The FBC uses International Codes and nationally adopted model codes and standards to form the foundation for the Florida Building Code. The Florida Building Code includes energy efficient construction and design guidelines for Florida's commercial and residential infrastructure.
- Implemented an initiative as part of the U.S. Department of Energy's Clean Cities program. "Drive Electric Orlando" is an innovative public-private partnership between FDACS OOE, the Central Florida Clean Cities Coalition and the Electrification Coalition that offers consumers an option to rent an electric vehicle in Orlando, Fla. "Drive Electric Orlando" seeks to increase consumer awareness of the benefits and capabilities of electric vehicles by providing consumers with a risk-free opportunity to experience and evaluate an electric vehicle for an extended period.
- Launched the Farm Renewable and Efficiency Demonstration (FRED) Program using an award from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. FRED provides Florida farmers free energy evaluations, valued up to \$4,500, and grant reimbursement for 80 percent of the cost up to \$25,000 to implement the recommendations from the free energy evaluation. Examples of eligible projects for reimbursement include: energy-efficient lighting and water pumps, fuel-efficient tractors and generators, and small scale renewable energy generation, such as solar or biomass.

An estimated 79,400
children around the
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FLORIDA FOREST SERVICE

The Florida Forest Service protects Florida and its residents through the prevention, detection and suppression of wildland fires. The Florida Forest Service also manages more than 1 million acres of state forest resources and provides forest management assistance to forest landowners and urban communities. During the 2016 calendar year, the Florida Forest Service:

- Battled 2,795 Florida wildfires, which burned 37,877 acres, while saving 584 homes, businesses and other structures from the threat of wildfire. The Florida Forest Service also deployed 465 personnel to assist wildfire suppression efforts in 19 different states, including: Tennessee, North Carolina and California. Of those dispatched, 136 served on seven separate Florida Forest Service hand-crews. During the fall months, the Florida Forest Service provided personnel and equipment to several southeastern states to help manage their extreme wildfire activity through the Southeastern Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact. The compact has provided for the effective prevention and control of wildfires in the southeastern region since 1954, and includes cooperative involvement from the following states: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia.
- Administered the largest and most active prescribed fire program in the nation, issuing 83,745 authorizations for public and private land managers to treat 2.4 million acres with prescribed fire. In addition, the Florida Forest Service alone treated more than 204,000 acres of Florida state forests with prescribed fire. Prescribed fire is an important land management tool used to reduce the buildup of flammable plant materials that fuel and intensify dangerous wildfires. The reduction of hazardous buildup results in increased safety for surrounding areas. In addition, many of Florida's plant and animal communities are dependent on the regular occurrence of fire for a healthy existence.



- Celebrated the 80th anniversary of Florida state forests. Since its establishment in 1936, Florida's state forest system has evolved and grown into one of the most extensive and well-managed state forest systems in the nation, with 37 state forests covering 1.1 million acres. Through extensive reforestation efforts, prescribed fire treatments, wildlife restoration, invasive species control and more, the Florida Forest Service and its partners have worked together to keep Florida's state forests vibrant, productive and sustainable. Over the last 15 years, the Florida Forest Service has planted and seeded more than 77,000 acres of trees, including pine, cypress and hardwood.

Battled 2,795 Florida wildfires

- Opened the historic 70,000-acre Babcock Ranch Preserve to the public. Babcock Ranch Preserve in Charlotte County now offers public recreational opportunities, including hiking, biking, horseback riding and ranch tours, while also functioning as the largest state-owned working cattle ranch managed by a private cattle company.
- Re-certified Blackwater River and Tate's Hell State Forests, covering 413,000 acres, through one of the world's most recognized and independent forest management certification standards, the Sustainable Forestry Initiative.
- Enrolled 44,560 additional acres into the forestry Best Management Practices (BMP) program, expanding the total number of acres enrolled to more than 5 million. Based on a survey conducted by the department, Florida landowners enrolled in the program demonstrated a 98-percent compliance rate with forestry BMPs. These practices are designed as the minimum standards necessary for protecting and maintaining the State's water quality during forestry activities.
- Administered the Wildlife Best Management Practices (WBMP) program. Through this voluntary program, Florida's forest owners have pledged to protect imperiled wildlife on more than 3 million acres of forests. Forest owners who volunteer are helping to protect species such as the Bluenose Shiner, the Gopher Tortoise and the Southeastern American Kestrel.

FLORIDA FOREST SERVICE

- Acquired 10 conservation easements through the Rural and Family Lands Protection Program, covering 10,556 acres. Seven additional conservation easements covering 11,764 acres were approved for acquisition by the Florida Cabinet in 2016. The mission of the Rural and Family Lands Program is to create conservation easements that preserve valuable agricultural lands and protect natural areas.
- Certified 57 Firewise Communities and nine Community Wildfire Protection plans, bringing the total number in the state to 51. Conducted 1,353 wildfire prevention outreach and education events that reached more than 418,856 people in Florida. Conducted 186 wildfire mitigation projects, which reduced the threat of wildfire damage on 15,706 acres and provided increased protection to 3,719 homes, businesses and other structures valued at just under \$840 million. Through wildfire prevention and mitigation efforts, the Florida Forest Service helps Floridians learn how to protect their communities from wildfire.
- Hosted 90 Operation Outdoor Freedom events, which provided recreational opportunities for 646 of Florida's wounded veterans to enjoy some of Florida's finest public and private lands. The Program, established in 2011, provides wounded veterans opportunities to participate in guided and unguided outdoor activities, including hunting, fishing and boating events at no cost. To date, more than 2,770 wounded veterans have participated in 350 Operation Outdoor Freedom events.
- Administered the Florida National Champion Tree Program, which recognizes the largest known tree of each species within the state. Florida now has 126 national champion or national co-champion trees, the most of any state in the United States.
- Certified 173 Florida communities with the "Tree City USA" designation, the fourth highest number of any state, and supported their efforts to maintain healthy forests through tree planting and maintenance. Also awarded 20 urban and community forestry grants to communities, totaling \$289,900, for tree planting and to improve management of their urban trees.
- Generated \$7.54 million in revenue from the sale of traditional forest products, miscellaneous forest products and recreational usage receipts on 35 state forests. This total also includes revenue generated when foresters assist other agencies and counties with timber harvests for a percentage of the timber sale revenue.
- Assisted more than 800 landowners, who participated in federal cost-share programs, with tree planting, prescribed burning, invasive species removal and management plan development. These cost shares provided more than \$1.2 million in federal funding to landowners to help them maintain healthy, productive forests on more than 74,433 acres. Additionally, Florida Forest Service foresters provided 7,993 assists to landowners on 186,600 acres and prepared 672 forest management and practice plans covering more than 109,000 private forestland acres.
- Provided 10,000 free trees to Florida homeowners through a partnership with the Arbor Day Foundation's Energy Saving Trees Program, the U.S. Forest Service, the Davey Institute and Florida's utility companies. Through an innovative and interactive online tool, homeowners identified the most strategic location for planting and were given an estimate of the annual savings and benefits that would result from the tree.
- Assisted hurricane response and recovery efforts before, during and after hurricanes Hermine and Matthew. The Florida Incident Management Gold Team was mobilized to help with Urban Search and Rescue efforts in Central Florida; Florida Forest Service dozer operators helped reduce erosion on A1A in Flagler County; and forestry crews helped remove fallen debris in Tallahassee's neighborhoods and Taylor County's badly hit coastal areas. The Florida Forest Service also deployed an Urban Forestry Strike Team to Jacksonville to assess storm damage and make recommendations for tree removal and pruning based on public safety impacts.

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DIVISION OF FOOD, NUTRITION AND WELLNESS

The Division of Food, Nutrition and Wellness administers the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Special Milk Program, Afterschool Snack Program, Summer Food Service Program, Seamless Summer Option Program and Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program. Program responsibilities include advocating changes in policy that ensure the most nutritious meal is provided to children and that all children in Florida are educated on the benefits of living a healthy lifestyle. During the 2016 calendar year, the Division of Food, Nutrition and Wellness:

- Awarded six Florida school districts \$350,000 in Farm to School grants to increase the amount of locally grown products served to children. The grant was awarded to school districts that purchased at least 10 percent of the food they serve from local Florida farms. Grant awardees included: Orange, Osceola, Sarasota, Alachua, Marion and Hendry school districts. Currently, 63 percent of Florida's school districts participate in some aspect of the Farm to School Initiative, with 34 percent of the school districts procuring local agriculture products.



- Provided in-person training to nearly 18,000 school food service personnel to ensure school nutrition professionals have the knowledge and tools they need to plan, prepare and purchase healthy products to create nutritious and enjoyable school meals.
- Supplied 490,000 USDA Foods meals and purchased nearly 3 million shelf stable meals and 8.1 million liters of water in response to hurricanes Hermine and Matthew during the 2016 hurricane season.

- Expanded the WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) to now include Duval and Columbia counties and 12 new FMNP sites. Increased the participation rate of certified growers in the program by six percent (172 to 183). A total of \$192,184 client-issued WIC FMNP checks were redeemed at participating community farmers' markets.
- Distributed over 41.5 million pounds of supplemental emergency food to individuals and families in need through The Emergency Food Assistance Program and partnerships with contracted emergency feeding organizations.
- Was selected as one of five states nationwide to participate in the direct certification demonstration for free and reduced-price meals. This demonstration allows schools to directly certify students for free or reduced-price lunch using Medicaid enrollment data within the Florida Direct Certification System without the need for household applications. This process increases participation among children in the school meal programs, reduces labor costs for the schools and allows for a healthier student body.
- Received a \$358,293 Administrative Review Training Method II implementation grant from U.S. Department of Agriculture to develop a comprehensive Administrative Review Module for the National School Lunch Program. The module will automate the compliance monitoring process on a mobile-friendly, web-based system, which will also synchronize with the division's current web portal and allow schools to quickly review and respond to compliance findings.

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DIVISION OF FOOD SAFETY

The Division of Food Safety monitors food from farm gate through processing and distribution to the retail point of purchase to ensure the public of a safe, wholesome and properly represented food supply. In doing so, the division permits and inspects food establishments, inspects food products and performs laboratory analyses on a variety of food products sold or produced in the state. During the 2016 calendar year, the Division of Food Safety:

- Expanded and increased dairy product testing capabilities by centralizing the state's dairy laboratory testing activities, which streamlined laboratory activities, ensured the continuity of laboratory operations and provided the division with significant cost savings. Laboratory testing of milk and milk products is critical to ensuring Florida's residents and visitors of a safe and wholesome milk supply.

Proactively
responded to
Hurricanes Hermine
and Matthew by
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- Increased participation in the Florida Agricultural Science and Technology (FAST) paid fellowship program. This year, the division placed two FAST fellows in our Chemical Residue and Food Laboratories. The program benefits baccalaureate, master's degree and doctoral graduates by providing the opportunity to increase their knowledge and gain valuable work experience in two nationally accredited laboratories.
- Proactively responded to Hurricanes Hermine and Matthew by deploying 170 inspectors across 56 counties to assess damages caused by these storms. Inspectors visited over 3,700 food establishments and contacted over 1,000 others, ensuring food maintained and sold post-disaster was safe and wholesome.

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DIVISION OF LICENSING

The Division of Licensing is responsible for protecting the public from unethical business practices on the part of individuals providing private security, private investigative and recovery services through licensure and regulation of those industries. In addition, the division is responsible for the issuance of concealed weapon or firearm licenses. During the 2016 calendar year, the Division of Licensing:

Expedited processing
of 62,042 concealed
weapon or firearm
license applications
for veterans and
military members.

- Issued 543,155 licenses, including:
 - 455,209 concealed weapon licenses
 - 4,646 private investigator licenses
 - 656 recovery agent licenses
 - 66,561 security officer licenses
- Received 363,306 contacts, including 285,866 calls and 77,440 chats.
- Completed a long-term, division-wide restructuring based on management by function in order to realize efficiency and strengthen the division's external relationships.
- Increased efficiencies in offices by implementing: an online calendar system, which allows applicants to schedule appointments at regional offices for new concealed weapon or firearm licenses; and an automated notification system to alert individuals with appointments of office closures.
- Launched an online portal that provides concealed weapon or firearm license holders the convenience of renewing online.
- Expanded the Concealed Weapon Intake System to an additional 26 tax collector offices. This partnership allows tax collector offices to accept concealed weapon license applications on behalf of the department. Since the program's inception in 2014, the department has partnered with 41 tax collectors to offer the service at 46 locations. The partnership will expand to additional locations in 2017.
- Implemented a fee reduction for all concealed weapon license applicants and a waiver of initial license fees and initial application fees for all US military veterans honorably discharged within 24 months of submitting a new application for 12 different license types, issued pursuant to Chapter 493, F.S.
- Reduced processing times for most concealed weapon license applicants, including applicants with criminal histories to fewer than 50 days and applicants with clean backgrounds who used a "fast track" application process to fewer than 30 days. Reduced processing times for service of documents concerning concealed weapon license administrative actions.
- Enhanced public safety by implementing procedures to initiate fingerprint retention for security, private investigation and recovery industries as of January 1, 2017, and enhanced the background check review process for Temporary Class G Statewide Firearm License applicants. The verification process balances the need to ensure public safety and that qualified applicants are timely licensed to perform work in the security and/or private investigative industries in an armed capacity.
- Created the Regulatory Compliance Section, which works with private and investigative security and recovery agencies to ensure operational compliance with Chapter 493, F.S.
- Completed a comprehensive rule update, including revised forms, publications and processes associated with firearms training for armed security officers and armed private investigators as well as the adoption of two new rules— one eliminating the existing firearm waiver program and one establishing standards for private investigator reciprocity.



DIVISION OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

The Division of Fruit and Vegetables ensures that Florida agriculture meets established standards and grades. It also carries out marketing orders for various fruit and vegetable commodities, including citrus, avocados, peanuts and tomatoes. During the 2016 calendar year, the Division of Fruit and Vegetables:

- Performed more than 590 food safety audits, including: Good Agricultural Practices and Food Handling audits, Florida Tomato Good Agricultural Practices audits, USDA Tomato Protocol audits, USDA Harmonized audits, GFSI audits and Partners in Quality audits.



- Inspected 84.1 million 1-3/5 bushel boxes of citrus for processors and 15.9 million 4.5 bushel cartons for fresh citrus packinghouses.

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Conducted terminal
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- Conducted shipping point vegetable inspections on 625,865 tons, including: 915,800 bushels of avocados; 38.1 million pounds of shelled peanuts; 242,111 tons of farmer stock peanuts; 192,144 50-pound bags of potatoes; and 26.7 million 25-pound containers of fresh tomatoes.
- Conducted terminal market inspections totaling 50,176 tons of produce.



OFFICE OF AGRICULTURE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

The Office of Agriculture Technology Services is responsible for providing information technology-related services within the department. Major areas of responsibility include being an information services provider and establishing and maintaining the necessary infrastructure to support the department's information technology needs. During the 2016 calendar year, the Office of Agriculture Technology Services:

- Successfully realigned OATS' statutory authority to establish the office as a division with clearly delineated responsibilities to better serve the department and support the enterprise's programs. This allowed OATS to reorganize into a division with defined bureaus, sections and an independent budget to support the ongoing operations throughout the department. Further, this reorganization best positions OATS to continue the implementation of their IT Strategic Plan, developed to transform FDACS' information technology resources to create a cohesive, agile and innovative environment able to best serve the public, regulated entities and employees.
- Began the process for an enterprise licensing and regulatory system to automate the cumulative functions of the department's regulatory responsibilities. Upon successful implementation, this system will transform the department's ability to serve those it regulates and allow end-to-end customer support. Initially set to automate the Division of Licensing's four major programs and the Division of Administration's revenue collection and reconciliation capabilities, the new system will ultimately be scalable and extensible to the remainder of the department to achieve a single, universal application able to provide visibility into each regulated entities' standing with the department.

Completed
a statewide
network upgrade
and router
replacement
project

- Began the implementation of the Microsoft Office365 Enterprise Cloud Suite for the department's employees to provide updated tools to best support each employee in their duties. More importantly, this allows OATS to best manage "desktop toolshed" and leverage FDACS' collective buying power to provide significant cost savings while ensuring the latest tool sets available.

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- Developed and implemented a new "Employee Center" intranet site built upon Microsoft's SharePoint platform to offer our employees a collaborative environment where they can have access to all applicable, relevant and timely information available during their journey with the department.
- Completed a statewide network upgrade and router replacement project to ensure the department's communications infrastructure is sustainable and recoverable into the foreseeable future. This was critical to ensure the state was positioned to support the department's wide ranging emergency-response responsibilities.

DIVISION OF MARKETING AND DEVELOPMENT

The Division of Marketing and Development produces strategies to facilitate the buying, selling and marketing of Florida agricultural products. It assists the state in expanding markets and operates 13 wholesale farmer's markets. During the 2016 calendar year, the Division of Marketing and Development:

- Expanded consumer sales of "Fresh From Florida" products and matched Florida producers with buyers throughout the world. To provide a foundation of promotion and awareness of Florida's safe and quality fresh produce offerings, "Fresh From Florida" partners with 45 retail grocery chains, and is active in 26 countries with more than 11,600 stores worldwide located throughout North, South and Central America, the Caribbean, Europe and Asia.
- Continued to promote Florida's fresh produce and seafood with statewide television, digital, print and social media. In 2016, paid social media was added to the campaign to increase website traffic and followers on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Facebook "likes," in particular, increased from 26,170 in February to 89,334 in December. Sponsored ads created more than 72,000 clicks to FreshFromFlorida.com.



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- Launched the "Fresh!" recipe series, a collection of hands-only, "how to" videos released every two weeks on "Fresh From Florida" social media platforms, in October 2016. Each video features at least one Florida commodity and is based on what's in season in Florida. This initiative has proven particularly successful in promoting the "Fresh From Florida" brand, boasting nearly 420,000 video views with only five videos posted to date.
- Installed the Salesforce Marketing Cloud to enable conversation with and customized direct marketing to consumers, Florida producers, farmers' markets, community-supported agriculture organizations, retailers and others. It allows for personalized marketing journeys designed to take a consumer from one casual interaction to lasting brand loyalty and enthusiasm for Florida agricultural products. Communities will connect these various groups with the department and with one another. The Social Studio application will manage the division's social media presence and gauge the effect of each post, using qualitative as well as quantitative data.
- Exhibited and promoted "Fresh From Florida" agricultural products in six major trade shows in the domestic and international marketplace. Additionally, industry outreach efforts included participation in 30 agriculture industry conferences, meetings and educational seminars to engage with industry leaders.

DIVISION OF PLANT INDUSTRY

The Division of Plant Industry excludes, detects, intercepts and controls plant and honey bee pests that threaten Florida's native and commercially grown plants and agricultural resources. During the 2016 calendar year, the Division of Plant Industry:

- Eradicated the Oriental fruit fly from the Redland area of Miami-Dade County. Oriental fruit flies (OFF), *Bactrocera dorsalis*, are one of the most destructive fruit fly pests in the world and threaten more than 430 commodities. The eradication program began in September of 2015, and in February 2016, eradication was declared in Florida's most serious infestation on record of the Oriental fruit fly. Over 165 OFF were collected and a quarantine was established in a 98-square-mile area around the positive finds. State and federal agricultural officials worked with growers who signed over 1,700 compliance agreements and issued over 730 temporary certificates allowing eligible growers to harvest and move their products. Since eradication was declared, the agricultural industry in the Redland area has returned to normal operations.
- Continued program to eradicate giant African land snails (GALS) detected in Miami in September 2011. By the end of 2016, the program collected more than 166,000 snails on over 696 properties in 32 core areas of Miami-Dade County and one core area of Broward County. Twenty-one of the 32 cores have not had a positive find in over two years, and eight cores have been selected for decommissioning.

As a partner in the Citrus Health Response Program, a holistic approach is being taken to protect citrus production from root to fruit through research, disease management and outreach efforts. Highlights include:

- Surveyed 239,600 acres of commercial citrus groves for pests and diseases.
- Removed 3,675 acres of abandoned grove statewide under the Abandoned Grove Tree Removal Project, an initiative to slow the progression of citrus greening.



- An additional 2,407 acres of abandoned grove was removed by individual property owners during 2016 under the CHRP Abandoned Grove Initiative. Held a CHRP Working Group Meeting to provide updates to citrus industry stakeholders on state and federal cooperative efforts.
- Growers, through area CHMAs, continued to coordinate sprays to suppress psyllid populations and effectively manage the spread of citrus greening disease. There are 55 organized CHMAs statewide. USDA and FDACS together continue to monitor 5,600 grove blocks every three weeks.
- Produced 3,800,000 *Tamarixia radiata*, a beneficial insect that attacks the Asian citrus psyllid, the vector of citrus greening disease.
- Hired two additional Lab Technician positions at the Dundee Biological Control Rearing facility to increase *Tamarixia radiata* production to meet high demand.
- Conducted field research to evaluate and improve *Tamarixia* release strategies.
- Produced 343,032 horticulturally superior bud eyes at the department's Chiefland budwood facility for distribution to commercial Florida citrus nurseries and three research facilities.
- Hired one additional position for the budwood backup and indexing facility at LaCrosse. Completed construction on Phase II at LaCrosse.

DIVISION OF PLANT INDUSTRY

Completed 599,251
separate plant pest
identifications.

- Completed 599,251 separate plant pest identifications. Twenty-one exotic species were detected within the state, all representing new U.S. and/or state records. An additional 63 detections of known exotic agricultural pests were made at interdiction stations. Evaluated and processed 357 plant, arthropod, pathogen and nematodes permits, and 32 Federal Register evaluations involving commodity movement from foreign countries and pests recommended for deregulation by USDA-APHIS.
- Completed the evaluation of antimicrobials for the control of *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus* (Las) in the department's citrus arboretum, the foundation grove plantings in the Dundee area and a commercial grove in Lake Wales. One agent showed an efficacy in reducing the amount of Las present in treated trees, and did not change the endophytic bacterial community, demonstrating that injection did not increase the percentage of resistant bacteria. Citrus that were treated had larger canopy, higher fruit counts and weights than those that were not treated.
- Inspected 17,655 nurseries and stock dealers; issued 15,640 export certificates; conducted over 9.3 million inspections of 548,625 exotic fruit fly traps; and certified 41,080 acres of citrus groves totaling 2,640,906 cartons of fruit free of Caribbean fruit fly. Collected \$2.5 million in revenue for the state.
- Conducted inspections of 469,348 honey bee colonies from 4,180 registered beekeepers; issued 962 Out-of-State Shipping certificates that have a destination to 29 states; and certified 252 semi loads of honey bee colonies for Red Imported Fire Ant (RIFA) for entry into California for almond pollination. Processed 367 samples for African Honeybee certification and 131 samples from 62 registered Queen Breeder's breeding stock as European mother lines.



- Completed sixth year of the Travelers Don't Pack a Pest program – the successful campaign to educate international travelers about the risks associated with bringing undeclared agriculture items into the U.S. Program video is airing in the nation's 20 busiest international airports where 85 percent of international travelers enter the U.S. In 2016, partnerships were initiated with Haiti and Suriname. Over 700 signs are now on display in 50 major ports of entry throughout Florida and the Caribbean.
- Continued work with Florida importers, the USDA and U.S. Customs and Border Protection to evaluate foreign agricultural import protocols to assure plant pest and disease introduction risks are effectively addressed.

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FreshFromFlorida.com